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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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7590

07/08/2003

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EXAMINER

HARVEY, JAMES R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/832,108

Applicant(s)

BAUER, GUNTER

Examiner

James R. Harvey

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE 4-17-03.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-8,10,11 and 13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-8,10,11 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 April 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

- The formal drawings have been received and filed on 4-17-03. They are approved by the examiner.

Claim Cancellations

- The cancellation of claims 3 and 9 has been made of record.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

- A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4-17-03 has been entered.

Claim Objections

- The following claims are objected to:
 - In reference to claims 5-8, the claim language "a housing" is vague and indefinite. Amended claim 1 from which the claims depend, introduced "a housing". The examination is based upon the assumption that applicant intended to change the language [a housing] to "the housing" in claims 5-8.

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- In reference to claim 6, "wall" should be walls.
- Appropriate correction of the above is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

- The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

- Claim(s) 1,2,4-8,10,11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yabe (4895138).

-- In reference to claim 1, Yabe shows (cover sheet) a flexible multi-layer foil-like electrical conductor track element 35 having at least one connection portion (see examiner's figure) electrically connected to a connection zone (see examiner's figure) of an electrical component 34, wherein a walls of a housing of the electrical connection arrangement are provided in a vicinity of the connection portion and the connection zone, the walls being arranged such that they form, along with the electrical component, a basin , said basin being open on one side only, (see examiner's figure) and an originally flowable molding mass 58 is distributed in the basin, such that the connection portion of the electrical conductor track element and the connection zone of the electrical component are completely covered by the molding mass.

The meaning of "foil-like" is not set forth in the claims and is thus deemed to be so broad that it is met by the applied reference in that the metallic traces are as thin as foil.

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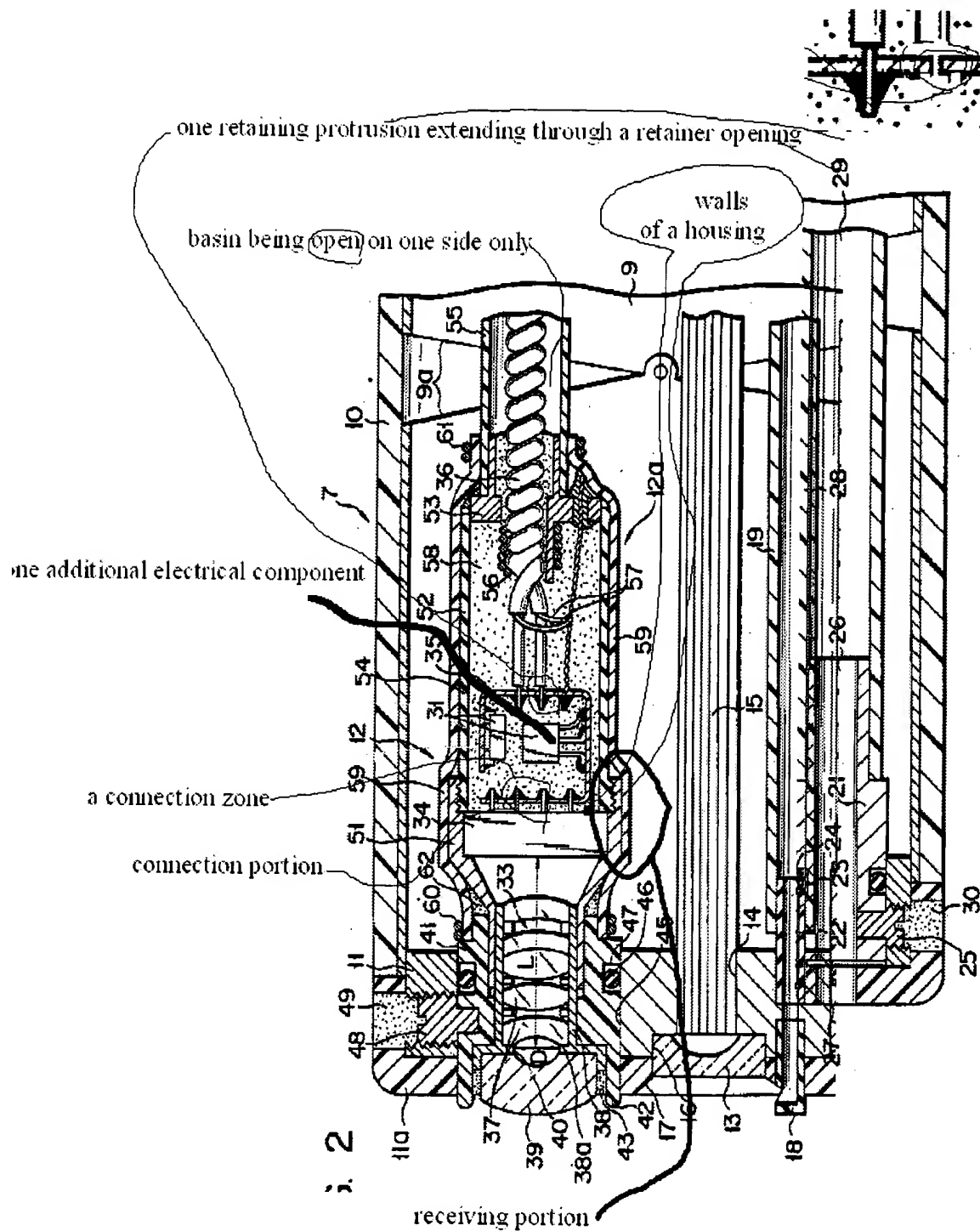
- In reference to claim 2, Yabe (cover sheet) shows the track element 35 is provided with at least one additional electrical component (see examiner's figure) within the basin.
- In reference to claim 3, it has been canceled.
- In reference to claim 4, Yabe (cover sheet) shows the track element has a bent portion (near element lead line 35) within the basin.
- In reference to claim 5, Yabe (cover sheet) shows the connection arrangement is arranged within the housing.
- In reference to claim 6, Yabe (cover sheet) shows the walls forms part of the housing.
- In reference to claim 7, Yabe shows the connection arrangement is arranged with the housing having at least one retaining protrusion extending through a retainer opening (see examiner's figure) of the track element 35. The meaning of "one retaining protrusion extending through a retainer opening" is not set forth in the claims and is thus deemed to be so broad that it is met by the applied reference showing a cylindrical element extending through a hole and retaining the cylindrical element in the hole.
- In reference to claim 8, Yabe shows the connection arrangement is arranged within the housing having at least one receiving portion for receiving a part of the electrical component 34 (see examiner's figure). The figure shows the flared out portion that accommodates the electrical component 34.
- In reference to claim 9, it has been cancelled.
- In reference to claim 10, shows at least one layer of the track element comprises electrically conductive tracks. The tracks are seen to be an inherent feature of the circuit board 35.

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-- In reference to claim 11, shows at least one layer is an electrically isolating layer. The insulating layer is seen to be an inherent feature of the circuit board 35.

-- In reference to claim 13, shows the electrical component 34 has a body that forms apart of the basin.

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Response to Arguments

-- Applicant's arguments filed in response to the previous office action have been fully considered and are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

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Effective May 1, 2003, the United States Patent and Trademark Office has a new Commissioner for Patents address. Correspondence in patent related matters must now be addressed to:

**Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

For additional information regarding the new address, see Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

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- The prior art listed on PTO form 892 that is made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it shows the state of the art with respect to applicant's claimed invention.
 - Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Harvey whose telephone number is 703-305-0958. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 703-308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 (OFFICAL/BEFORE FINAL) and 703-872-9319 (OFFICAL/AFTER FINAL).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

James R. Harvey, Examiner

jrh

June 26, 2003



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PRIMARY EXAMINER